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[No. 12.]

Wonston Tracts.

HARVEST HINTS
FOR CHRISTIAN LABOURERS.



TENTH THOUSAND.

LONDON:
JAMES NISBET AND CO., 21, BERNERS STREET.
WONSTON: JAMES SHAYLER.

1852.

May every person who reads this Tract find a blessing in it; and that he may do so, he had better begin by saying,

*O God, for Jesus Christ's sake,
give me the Holy Spirit,
that I may profit by whatever
is good in this Tract.*

HARVEST HINTS TO CHRISTIAN LABOURERS.

THE Harvest is a time when the greatness of God's bounty, and the abundance of his gifts, become more evident than usual. Think of the millions of bushels of corn that He makes the earth to yield every year, for the food of man, and let your heart be filled with thankfulness.

The Harvest is a time when the mercy of God's grace, in saving sinners by his dear Son Jesus Christ, is pictured out more plainly than at other seasons; and the Gospel may be said to be translated into the language of those who cannot read, and its pages laid open upon the hills and in the valleys. Almost every thing connected with harvest has been made, by the Holy Spirit, the means by which the Gospel is taught and applied in pictures. Think of all the parables and comparisons by which God has done this; and whoso hath eyes to see, let him see.

The Harvest is a time when the labourer is called to more exertion of body than at other times; as if,

when man is taking the food he is to eat out of the earth, as from the hand that gives it, God specially called him to the remembrance of the curse —“In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread.” Satan takes advantage of this remembrance; and while the labour is much, and the strength is weakened, he suggests it as an excuse to forget God, and put off serving Him and seeking Him. Remember this is a device of the devil. The greater the labour, and the less the strength, the more the necessity for obtaining that sufficient strength which must be sought of God.

The Harvest is a time when every body must go into the field: the master wants all hands; so all must go just as they are sent. There are some characters in every parish which Christians strive to keep away from;—swearers—drunkards—immoral—busybodies—mockers, &c., &c. No Christian would seek the company of such as these: but the harvest-field is a common hall, where a man must meet all comers. Satan takes great advantage of this; and he often makes it his sowing-time. He sends his worldlings to sow all sorts of sin-seed broad-cast; and a great deal falls upon new ground which he could not get at before. Bad words and bad thoughts fly about, and fall on ears which may have been unwilling at first, but afterwards get accustomed to hear the sad things that are said; and it often follows that the hearers learn to imitate the bad things that are done too. Remember that it

is said, "Resist the devil and he shall flee from you,"

The Harvest is a time when a Christian may have a fair opportunity of saying in the field a word to benefit the soul of a perishing neighbour, who will not come to hear the word from Christ's minister in the church. But the devil scares such a christian in the harvest-field, by the louder talking, and the unblushing impudence of the bold children of the evil one; and so he often succeeds in making cowards of quiet christians, and burthens their consciences with a sense of having been ashamed of their Saviour. It should give you courage to remember that there are more angels about you, though you cannot see them, than bold sinners that you can see; and above all, He whom they blaspheme is your strength and your shield. If He puts it into your heart to speak out—be not afraid; and remember "a word in season how good it is."

With respect to the mode of guarding against the danger of the harvest to your souls, one great rule would be enough, if it were always attended to. That rule is, go forth to the harvest-field PRAYING that God's Spirit would go with you—continue in your work secretly PRAYING that the same Spirit may keep you—and when you hear or see evil persons engaged in evil words or works, let it be an occasion for lifting up your hearts secretly to Him "to whom all hearts are open," that you may be

kept from the evil infection of sin. To any one who keeps this rule, the harvest will turn out to be a means of grace, instead of a danger of evil.

In order to get God's blessing on the harvest, the christians who are engaged in it would do well to attend to the following hints.

1. Never let any thing prevent your asking a blessing (in your family if you have one) before you go out from your home to work.

2. Use the little prayer, "O God, for Christ's sake, give me the Holy Spirit," very many times in the day; specially when in conversation with others.

3. Choose some text or part of Scripture in the morning, and think over it as you walk to your labour. When you need not be thinking of your work, think of that again.

4. If you can choose with whom to work, take care to get along with God-fearing people, who are not likely to speak evil, or to lead you to idle chat about other people's concerns.

5. If you are in company with those who are of a contrary kind, keep constantly in mind that such are under the power of the evil one; and lift up your heart for help from the Holy Spirit. Do not answer again to ensnaring talk; and do not be afraid to speak about Christ.

6. In gleaning, take care that you get a piece of ground as much as possible to yourself and your own children ; and keep the children as much under your rule in the harvest and gleaning field, as if they were at home or at School.

7. When you take your dinner in the field, as soon as the meal is over, make one of the children read a portion of the Scriptures aloud, while you are sitting together for rest afterwards.

8. Do not let fatigue prevent you from returning thanks to God in your family, and alone, for his mercy during the day, before you lie down to rest at night.

PRAYER,

*To be used during the harvest time, in the Morning
before going to work*

O GOOD and merciful God, I thank Thee for the rest of the past night, and for the strength with which I arise this morning. Give me continued strength every hour of this day, that I may be able to do my work in this harvest. Keep me sensible that I depend entirely upon Thy goodness, and let me not foolishly turn away that goodness from me, by giving way to sinful thoughts, words, or works. Let me not encourage others in sin ; and keep me from following the way of evil company. Give me grace to lift up my heart to Thee many times in prayer, and answer my prayers, by giving me more and more the Holy Spirit, for the sake of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Saviour. AMEN.

PRAYER,

To be used oftentimes in the course of the day.

Thou God seest me. Give me the Holy Spirit,
and keep me from sin, for Christ's sake. AMEN.

PRAYER,

*To be used during harvest time, in the Evening
before going to bed.*

Praised be thy name, O merciful God, who hast given me strength to go through the labours of this day, and hast brought me safely to the end of it; but more especially I desire to praise thee for the gift of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, in whose name I entreat thy pardon for all my sins, negligences, and ignorances of the past day. Thou, O Christ, knowest my frame that I am but dust; give me grace to serve thee better day by day, and to remember thy commandments; and give me thy Holy Spirit, that I may be enabled to obey them to the glory of thy name. AMEN.

Our Father, &c.

Price ½d. ; or 3s. 6d. per hundred.

J. Shayler, Printer, Wonston, Andover-Road.